

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-23 (cancelled)

24. (new) A cartridge for dispensing pill- or capsule-form medications in desired doses (60), said cartridge comprising

- individual dosage compartments (27) for desired doses of medication,
- a vacant recess or space (23) between the dosage compartments (27),
- a rotatable and removable cover (28) having an opening (28a) which can be rotated to coincide with any of the dosage compartments (27) for loading and/or dispensing of doses through the opening (28a), and
- means (90, 91) for visual indication of dispensing schedule comprising a first ring (90) with sections for days of a week, and a second ring (91) dividing said sections into subsections indicating the number of medicine of a day,

the cartridge being furnished with identification date (ID), on the basis of which the filled cartridge (20, 40) can be certifiably returned to a correct user.

25. (new) A loading device for loading cartridges as set forth in claim 24, **characterized** in that the cartridge is insertable into a separate closing or loading device (80) for filling the dosage compartments (27) of the cartridge with desired doses of medication and for furnishing the filled cartridge (20) with identification data (ID).

26. (new) An intelligent dispensing device (35) for dispensing pill- or capsule-form medications in desired doses, said dispensing device comprising

- a housing or frame (10),
- a cartridge (20) according to claim 24 or 25, rotatably supported on the housing or frame (10) without its cover (28), the cartridge (20, 40) being adapted to be disengageable and removable from the dispensing device (35) for filling the dosage compartments (27) of the cartridge with desired doses

of medication, the cartridge being furnished with identification data (ID), on the basis of which the filled cartridge (20) can be certifiably returned to the proper dispensing device (35),

- a signalling device (75, 76) giving a sound and/or light signal, which activates at pre-programmed points of time, and
- an electronics unit (19, 55) containing program electronics (19) and a dispensing program,

the program electronics (19) being re-programmable with a programming device (66, 101, 102), the dispensing being arranged to be effected by means of the users own action which is exerted onto the dispensing device (35).

27. (new) A dispensing device as set forth in claim 26, **characterized** in that the programming device (66, 101, 102) is an external portable device, which has a wireless communication link (37, 138) with the electronics unit (19, 55) of the dispensing device (35).

28. (new) A loading device as set forth in claim 25, **characterized** in that the prescription controlling the loading device (80) in terms of its filling action is adapted to be delivered, along with a patient's identification data, by way of a communication network, such as the internet or a chip card (68), to a computer (67) controlling operation of the loading device (80).

29. (new) A dispensing device as set forth in claim 27, **characterized** in that the external programming device (66, 101, 102) for a dispensing program comprises either a mobile telephone or a programming device (101, 102) equipped with an IR link (38, 138) for feeding the dispensing program, or modifications thereto to the electronics unit (19, 55).

30. (new) A dispensing device as set forth in claim 27, **characterized** in that the

external programming device (66, 101, 102) for a dispensing program comprises a computer (66), which has a link via the internet to a distant control file or which has a control file stored in its bulk memory.

31. (new) A loading device as set forth in claim 25, **characterized** in that the loading device (80) is adapted to provide the cartridge (20) with an optically readable label (ID) disclosing the identification data.

32. (new) A loading device as set forth in claim 25, **characterized** in that the cartridge (20) carries an electronic identification tag (39), which the loading device (80, 80') furnishes with identification data for a customer, and that the dispensing device (35) according to claim 26 or a hospital dispensary is provided with elements (39a; 102/139) for reading the data disclosed in the identification tag (39).

33. (new) A dispensing device as set forth in claim 26, **characterized** in that there are means (18, 18a) for rotating the cartridge (20) the rotating means being activated to function upon pressing a push button (3), but only after the signalling device (75, 76) has activated under control of the program of the electronics unit (19, 55).

34. (new) A dispensing device as set forth in claim 33, **characterized** in that, upon every activation of the means (18, 18a) manipulating the cartridge (20), the information about a dispensing occurrence is transmitted to said control file (64a), which compiles a monitoring log of taking a medication.

35. (new) A dispensing device as set forth in claim 33, **characterized** in that the electronics unit (19, 55) involves a memory which collects information regarding dispensing occurrences and transmits the same at prescribed times to a control file, which compiles a monitoring log of taking a medication, the prescribed times being

short enough for practically real time monitoring of taking a medication.

36. (new) A dispensing device as set forth in claim 26, **characterized** in that the electronics unit (19, 55) containing a dispensing program is programmable by means of push buttons (56) included therein.

37. (new) A dispensing device as set forth in claim 26, **characterized** in that between the dosage compartments (27) of the cartridge (20) is a vacant recess or space (23) and the housing or frame (10) of the dispensing device is provided with a protrusion, which functions as a response and/or an indication for inserting the cartridge (20) in the housing or frame (10) of a dispensing device in a preset initial position.

38. (new) A dispensing device as set forth in claim 26, **characterized** in that at least one cartridge (20) is encloseable within a space (5a, 5b) defined by a cover (2) mountable around the frame (10) and the cartridge (20).

39. (new) A dispensing device as set forth in claim 26, **characterized** in that a stepping motor (18) rotates the cartridge (20) in compliance with a program programmed in a programmable memory of the electronics unit (19, 55).

40. (new) A cartridge as set forth in claim 24, **characterized** in that, with the removable cover (28) set in its position, the dosage compartments (27, 47) are closed on all sides thereof.

41. (new) A cartridge as set forth in claim 24, **characterized** in that, the cartridge (20) is made of transparent plastics and also the dispensing device is partially made of transparent plastics to allow visual inspection of the doses in the dosage compartments.

42. (new) A dispensing device as set forth in claim 33, **characterized** in that a stepping motor (18) rotates the cartridge (20) through an angular distance equal to the dosage compartment (27) as the dispensing button (20) is pressed at the accepted medication time, which is programmed in the program of the electronics units (19, 55).